

BRANDON CEMETERY WALKING TOUR

Originally platted in 1831, the Brandon Cemetery contains more than one thousand marked graves. Added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2010, the earliest graves from 1834 are located on the eastern side of the cemetery. Graves from 1854 can be found on the western side of the property.

Two governors of Mississippi, Anselm Joseph McLaurin and Robert Lowry are buried here. Among other persons interred in the old Brandon Cemetery are Thomas S. Shaw, the town's first postmaster and surveyor of the town plat; two veterans of the Revolutionary War; over 200 Union and Confederate soldiers; Mrs. Frank Johnson (1831-1896), for whom Johnson Hall at the former Brandon Female College was named; and Susie Blue Buchanan, first female lawyer in Rankin County and the first female to practice before the Mississippi Supreme Court. In addition, there are Yellow Fever epidemic victims and un-inscribed headstones of unidentified early African American residents.



SOLDIERS FROM THE CIVIL WAR

BIBB, W.D. (WILLIAM D.)
4/23/1813-5/30/1887
SECTION 5

BUCHANAN, WILLIAM*
8/26/1841-2/29/1912
LT. COL. F, 18TH NC REGT. CSA
SECTION 3

CLARK, WILLIAM H.
NO DATES, AGE OF 36
COL. 46 MS REGT. CSA
KILLED AT ALLATOONA, GA
SECTION 2

COLE, H.S. (HENRY SIMS)
10/7/1834-1/28/1904
2ND SGT. 6TH MS INF. RGT., CSA
SECTION 5

GAYDEN, DR. F.T.
6/16/1820-11/22/1897
1861-1865 CSA
SECTION 3

GOODMAN, BURLEIGH
? – 10/19/1927
PVT. 3 VA CAV. CSA
SECTION 4

GUNN, HENRY B.
NO DATES
CO. D, 10 MS INF., CSA
SECTION 5

HARRIS, T.D., CAPT.
1833-1902
2ND LT. CO. B, 6TH MS REGT.
SECTION

HENRY, MAJOR PATRICK*
1843-1930
14 MS INF., CSA
SECTION 2



*DENOTES SIGNS ALONG TOUR ROUTE

JAYNES, W.M. (WILLIAM)
6/30/1825 – 3/19/1867
CSA
SECTION 2

LOWRY, ROBERT*

3/10/1829-1/19/1910
BRIG. GEN. 1861-1865 CSA
GOVERNOR OF MS 1881-1889
SECTION 5

PUCKETT, ANTHONY B.
2/20/1827 – 10/9/1853
CSA
SECTION 3

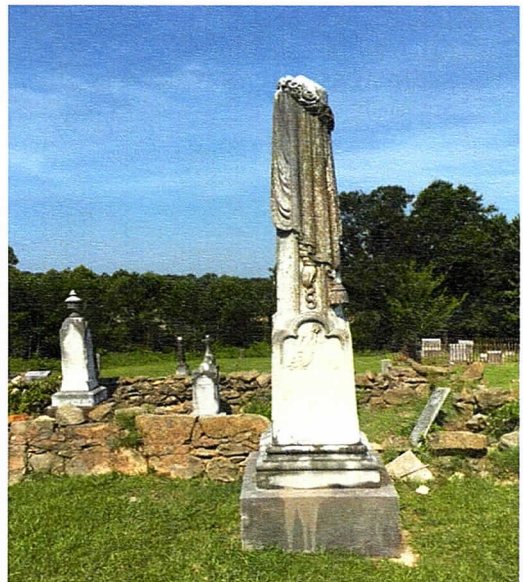
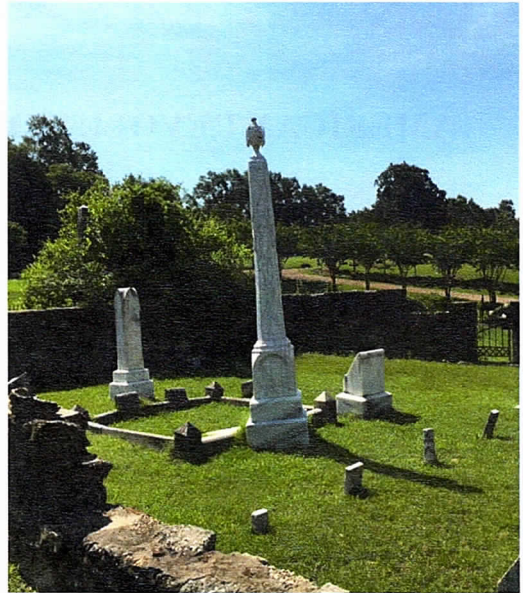
RUNGE, LOUIS A.
7/25/1835-9/9/1877
CAPT. CO. BN GUARDS, 6TH MS CSA
SECTION 4

SHELBY, COL. WINCHESTER B.
7/6/1827-7/9/1873
CSA
SECTION 5

SMITH, R.H. (RUBIN HAYWARD)
NO DATES (1835-1884)
CO. B, 39TH MS INF. CSA
SECTION 3

TURNCOTTE, WILLIAM H.
9/13/1844-10/8/1928
TURNER'S CO. LT ARTY. MS
CHEATUMS DIV. CSA
SECTION 5

WALKER, WILLIAM H.
1847-1908
CO. 4 MS CAV. CSA
SECTION 3



AMERICAN REVOLUTION SOLDIERS

SHELTON, CAPT. THOMAS, JR.*.

5/26/1763-8/20/1857

M.M. VA

SECTION 2

SHELTON, THOMAS, SR.

1742-1846

1ST LT VA

SECTION 2

SPANISH AMERICAN WAR SOLDIERS

WASHBURN, HUGH C.*

1878-1934

CO. F, 1ST MS INFANTRY

SECTION 1

WHITAKER, DUDLEY V.

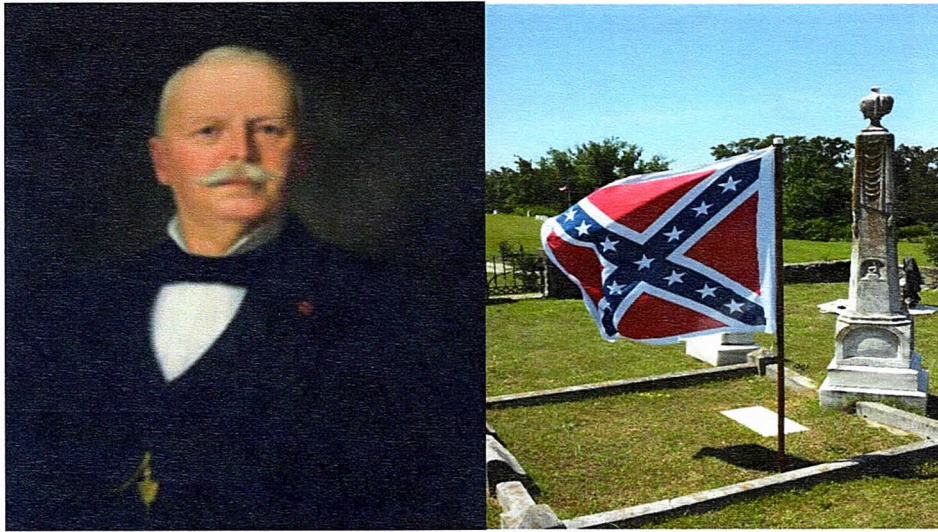
1879 - 1955

CO. D 2nd TN

SPANISH AMERICAN WAR

SECTION 1





**Governor of Mississippi
1896-1899**

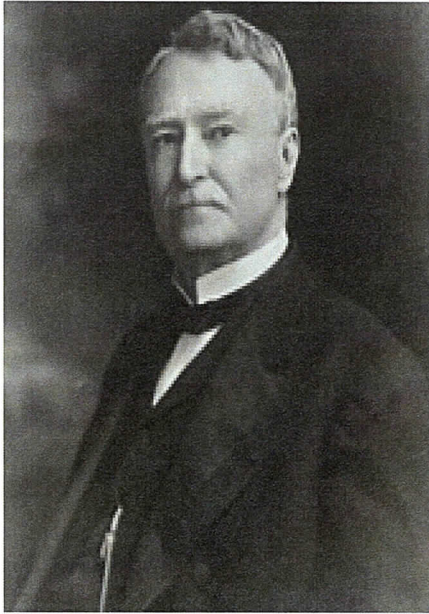
**Colonel of the 6th Mississippi Infantry
Brigadier General, CSA**

LOWRY, ROBERT 1829-1885*

Robert Lowry occupied the office of governor for eight years and was Mississippi's first governor to remain in office for two consecutive four-year terms. He was first elected in 1881 and re-elected in 1885. Lowry was born in the Chesterfield District of South Carolina on March 10, 1829. In the 1840s, his family moved to Raleigh, in Smith County. After reading law and being admitted to the state bar in 1859, he established a law practice at Brandon. When the Civil War began, he enlisted as a private and rose to the rank of brigadier general. After the war he resumed his practice of law in Brandon and was elected as a Democrat to the Mississippi Legislature in 1865.

In 1881, Governor Lowry defeated the Republican candidate, Benjamin King by a vote of 77,727 to 52,009. King was the last Republican to be nominated for governor until 1963. During Governor Lowry's first administration, a bill was introduced to move the state capital from Jackson to Meridian, a rapidly growing railroad town located at the juncture of the Southern and Mobile and Ohio railroads. That effort was unsuccessful and the 1890 Constitution established Jackson as the permanent state capital.

During Governor Lowry's first term, Jefferson and Varina Howell Davis visited Jackson at the request of the Mississippi Legislature. Governor Lowry hosted a formal state dinner in honor of the president of the Confederacy. Twenty years earlier, Lowry had been commissioned by the state of Mississippi to seek President Davis's release from prison at Fort Monroe where he had been sent awaiting his trial for treason against the United States. The federal government eventually dropped the charges against President Davis. That state dinner in the Mississippi Governor's Mansion was one of the last public appearances of Jefferson Davis. It was also during Governor Lowry's first administration that the Mississippi State College for Women was established. Originally called the Industrial Institute and College, it was the first state-supported college for women founded in the United States.



MCLAURIN, ANSELM JOSEPH*

Born in Brandon in 1848, McLaurin attended the Summerville Institute and became a lawyer, establishing his legal career in Raleigh, Mississippi. Although very young, he joined the 3rd Mississippi Cavalry (State Troops) and rose to the rank of captain of scouts by the time of his discharge in 1865. McLaurin first entered politics as the district attorney of Smith County, and was later elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives. He also served as a delegate to the 1890 Mississippi Constitutional Convention and was in the U.S. Senate from 1894 to 1895 and again from 1901 to 1909. He was elected governor in November 1895. During his term as governor McLaurin vetoed a bill to build a new state capitol in Jackson. He was the last Confederate veteran to serve as governor of Mississippi and the first to be elected under the current state constitution. In 1909, McLaurin died suddenly at his home in Brandon from a fatal heart attack while he was in a rocking chair in front of the fireplace in his library. He fell forward without speaking a word, and was dead before members of his family reached his side. McLaurin died on December 22, 1909, no doubt making a sad Christmas for his family. Less than a month later, former governor and Confederate veteran Robert Lowry joined McLaurin in death.

EARLY SETTLERS OF RANKIN COUNTY BURIED IN THE BRANDON CEMETERY

MARGARET GUNN BUCHANAN 8/19/1860 – 8/17/1915*

WILLIAM BUCHANAN 8/26/1841 – 2/29/1912*

Margaret Richardson Gunn Buchanan, daughter of Susan P. Richardson (Stevens) and Major John Gunn, came with her widowed mother to Brandon to live at "The Magnolias" located on the southeast corner of College and W. Jasper Street. This home, built in 1860 by her uncle, James Richardson Stevens was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978 and is also known as the Stevens Buchanan House. Margaret married William Buchanan on May 26, 1880 in the Brandon M.E. Church. William was born near Laurinburg, North Carolina, son of William, sr. and Jennette Buchanan. His father served several consecutive terms as "high" sheriff of Richmond County, North Carolina. Both his father and grandfather, John Buchanan were manufacturers of long rifles. During the War between the States, William served as Sergeant in Company F, 18th N.C. Regiment, known as the "Scotch Boys" and was wounded at Hanover Court House, captured at the Battle of Sharpsburg, and imprisoned for eighteen months at Elmira, New York. Following the war, he received his education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill coming to Mississippi in 1868. He was a prominent teacher, lawyer, Superintendent of Education from 1877-1883, a Representative from Rankin County in 1882 and State Senator from 1886 to 1880. He also served as an Elder of the Brandon Presbyterian church for eighteen years and Superintendent of the Sunday School for thirty-five years. Together, he and Margaret reared ten children, all born in "The Magnolias", Margaret's family home.

SUSIE BLUE 4/21/1882 – 4/11/1938 The first female lawyer licensed to practice law before the Mississippi Supreme Court, Susie Blue Buchanan was honored by an award being named after her, the "Susie Blue Buchanan Award". This award has been awarded to many women in the law profession, as well as the former Mississippi Lieutenant Governor Edythe Evelyn Gandy in 2003. She graduated from Brandon High School, attended Mississippi Synodical College, East Mississippi Female College, Harris Business College, and Millsaps College. Several years of her life were given to teaching in the schools of Rankin County and elsewhere in the state. She served as her father's secretary and read law with him and his partner, J.R. East. After her father's death in 1912, she continued studying with Mr. East and was sworn in on December 18, 1916. Specializing in land abstracts, she compiled a book of Rankin County Plats, known as the "Susie Blue Book" which is still in use to date. In addition to her legal duties, Susie Blue was one of the best informed historians of the community and county. She compiled a history of the Brandon Presbyterian Church and several notebooks on her family genealogy. She was an active member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and Colonial Dames until her death on April 11, 1938.



BATTE, LEWIS 1787-8/1/1861*

Born in Greensville County, Virginia, Lewis was the son of William, IV and Mary Ann Berryman Batte. He married Mary Hyde "Polly" Hobbs on April 17, 1808 in Greensville County. Their children were William Howell, Sarah "Sallie" Elizabeth and Martha Rebecca. Records show that the Battes came first to Iredall County, North Carolina and then to Rankin County, Mississippi in 1835. He and son, William Howell acquired large land holdings in the county. The Batte family are buried in a stone enclosure near the entrance to the cemetery. Their graves are marked by beautiful marble obelisks. The Kings, Alexanders, Hudnalls and Millers are also buried in this enclosure.

HUDNALL JOSEPH 1802-1878*

Born in Fauquier County, Virginia, Joseph Hudnall came to Brandon in early to mid-1820s with over 100 slaves. His first wife, Agnes B. Hudnall was one of the first to be buried in the Brandon Cemetery in 1837. Joseph then married Sophia F. Woolfaulk. After her death, he married Elizabeth Bourne Hoard from Port Royal, Tennessee. Joseph owned a large plantation in Pelahatchie and also a home in Brandon as early as 1824, prior to Brandon becoming a town. This property, previously owned by Captain S.C. Myers, was on the present day site of the Thompson Building rear parking lot on Dining Street.

MILLER, A.P. 1/8/1879-5/28/1914*

Alexander Prince Miller, known usually as A.P. Miller was the son of John Prince Miller and Susan Alexander Miller of Port Royal, Virginia. In 1834, he settled near Brandon, Rankin County, Mississippi. A. P. became a prominent, wealthy and influential citizen soon after he settled in Mississippi. Early in 1844 he was appointed one of five directors of the new Jackson and Brandon Railroad Company by the governor of Mississippi. On February 22, 1844, he married Mary Elizabeth Todd, who was born in Caroline County, Virginia. She was the first daughter and sixth child of Colonel Charles Todd, Jr. and Elizabeth Muse Pierce Todd. A.P. was very successful and in 1860 his personal estate was valued at \$218,700 and his land at \$58,000. Here he built the stately "Pleasant Grove" which would be his home for the rest of his life. Upon his death, newspaper obituaries described him as the largest landowner and planter of Rankin County.

STEVENS, DAISY MCLAURIN 1875-1950*

Born in 1875, Daisy was the daughter of Anselm J. and Laura McLaurin. She married William Forest Stevens in 1896 in New Jersey. They raised four children, Edward, Daisy II, Ann and Delta. She was a member of the local chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, President of the Mississippi Division and was the second Mississippi woman to attain the highest UDC office. She also was instrumental in raising funds to construct the Confederate Soldier monument in the Brandon Square.

MCLAURIN, DR. ALBERT G.*

Dr. McLaurin, son of Lauchlin, III and Ellen Caroline Tullos McLaurin and brother to Governor Anselm Joseph McLaurin, was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1890, representing Smith County, Mississippi. He later served as Superintendent of the State Lunatic Asylum. As a practicing physician in Rankin County, he worked timeless hours on a traveling circuit with little remuneration. He and his wife, Cordelia Evans McLaurin had two sons, Horace Jehu, Jr. and Sidney Lee McLaurin, Jr.

MCRAE, RICHARD DUNCAN 1844-1922*

Richard Duncan McRae brought his family to Rankin County and purchased vast amounts of farmland. His son, Samuel Proctor McRae, Sr. was a farmer and merchant and in 1902 founded the McRae's Department Store in Downtown Jackson. By the 1940s McRae's was located on West Capitol Street and was ran by Samuel and his brother, Richard D. McRae.

MAYERS, ALONZO G. 1821 – 1905*

In 1868, Judge Alonzo G. Mayers built a beautiful antebellum style home, known as "Wisteria Hall" in Brandon. The home boasted four chimneys and a wide brick walk, all constructed from bricks made on Judge Mayer's place. The walls were of white plaster and were made of plaster of Paris by a craftsman from France. He lived with Judge Mayers for a year in order to complete the work. Also located on the property was the law office of Judge Mayers.

MAYERS, DANIEL MCLAURIN 2/8/1860-8/25/1927**MAYERS, SARA HOBSON BATTE**

Sara Hobson Batte married Daniel Mayers, the older brother of her dear friend, Nan. Sara was educated at Miss Frank Johnson's Academy and at the Industrial Institute and College in Columbus, Mississippi, the present day Mississippi University for Women. She returned to Brandon to teach school. Daniel was a brilliant man with a hobby of writing for the local newspapers, a talent for attracting many friends, and a love for wearing a boutonniere of Grand Duke Jessamine. After their marriage, they moved to the Mayer's family home, Wisteria Hall, built by Judge A.G. Mayers. This home replaced his previous home burned during the occupation of the Northern Troops. Both Daniel's and Sara's parents lived with them and their nine children.

BERRY, J.T.B., M.D. 1859/8/18-1924/3/16*

Dr. Berry established and operated the Brandon Sanatorium in 1904 located on the northwest corner of Highway 80 and College Street. It included a training school for nurses. His home from 1889 to 1911 was located at 109 West Jasper Street currently in the Brandon Historic District. This home is currently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Steven C. Harrell

WASHBURN, HUGH C. 1878-1934*

Washburn was a very colorful and influential citizen of Brandon and Rankin County. As constable, he played the role of a tough and fearless character during Prohibition days when the Gold Coast was teaming with bootleggers, gambling joints and nightclubs. Washburn wore a beautiful pearl handled pistol and had the look of a typical lawman of that day. During working hours he always used a chauffeur. When he was not at his constable job, he rode his horse wherever he went. Though he never learned to drive a car, he had the second T-model Ford in Brandon. A very prosperous businessman, he owned the town meat market, icehouse, automobile garage and blacksmith shop. He also owned a dairy and raised beef cattle. He purchased his deceased brother's store and his wife, Mira Lee Smith Washburn, operated it until it burned in the 1920s. Washburn loved foxhunting. He would mount his horse, blow his horn, and 25 to 30 hounds would gather from all over town to join him. Washburn fought with Company F, 1st Mississippi Infantry in the Spanish American War.

HENRY, MAJOR PATRICK 1843-1938*

Major Patrick Henry, son of General Patrick and Betty C. West Henry, was born in Madison, Mississippi. Upon the breakout of the Civil War, he left the Western Military Institute at Nashville, Tennessee to become First Lieutenant of Company B, Sixth Mississippi Regiment, commanded by Colonel, afterwards, General Lowry. He was wounded in the battle of Shiloh, and again at Decatur, Alabama. He served as Assistant Inspector General under General John Adams. He was made Major of the Fourteenth Mississippi Infantry and was with General J.E. Johnston's army at Greensboro, North Carolina in April, 1865 when they surrendered at Greensboro. He was admitted to the bar in 1873 and served two terms in the Mississippi Legislature, in 1879 and 1890. He was a delegate for the state at large to the Constitutional Convention of Mississippi in 1890. In June, 1893, he was one of an escort of honor from Mississippi, with General Stephen D. Lee in command, bearing the remains of ex-President Jefferson Davis from New Orleans to his last resting place at Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, Virginia. In 1894, he was appointed assistant United States district attorney and in November 1896, was elected to the Fifty-fifth Congress. He married Margaret Cocke in 1874 and they had four children; Robert, Pat, Edmond and Annie. He was honored by the Brandon Garden Club for his distinguished service in the CSA, and as a US Representative, State Senator and Mayor of Brandon from 1916 until his death in 1930.



Grave of Patrick Henry, Jr., a lieutenant in the 6th Mississippi Infantry and Major in the 14th Mississippi Consolidated regiment, formed in April 1865 from the survivors of the 14th, 43rd, and 6th Mississippi infantry regiments

SPEERS, CAPT. ALEXANDER*

Captain Speers was the victim of one of the worst railroad disasters in Mississippi's history which took place on February 25, 1870. A Mississippi Central train on a run between Oxford and Water Valley ran off the rails while crossing a high trestle bridge over a 40 foot ravine. The engine made it across to the other side but the passenger cars plummeted through the wood, landing on top of one another in the ravine. Twenty people were instantly killed and sixty more were wounded, according to the reports at the time. The wreck was believed to have been caused by the unsound condition of the trestle timbers which permitted the rails to spread apart. Captain Speers died in the wreck and his body was returned by rail for interment in the Brandon Cemetery.

REBER, WILLIAM M.D. 1809-1889*

Dr. William Reber, one of Brandon's early inhabitants, came to Brandon in 1813 from Ohio. He practiced medicine in Brandon until his death in 1889, serving his earlier years in Brandon as a civil engineer and educator. Upon graduation from the University of Ohio, he immediately set out for Brandon. It was a thriving settlement, the largest in central Mississippi and the settlement of the Treaty of Doaks Stand opened up land to be divided legally among citizens providing him with great job opportunity. In 1835, he went back to Ohio and married Susan Millard Huston, who was just finishing Marietta College. William and Susan raised a family of six children in Brandon, Lucy Jane, Ann Elizabeth, Eugene Huston, Mary Wynne, Jennie Rachel and William, Jr. In 1833, William acquired about 1700 acres of land between Pelahatchie and Brandon, a parcel of which he donated to the Shiloh Methodist Campground when it was being established. In the early 1850s, William enrolled at Kentucky Medical Institute in Louisville and came back to do his preceptor practice under Dr. E.C. Farrar, a prominent physician and surgeon in Jackson. Later enrolling in the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, he returned to Brandon in 1854 and practiced medicine until age forced him to give it up. He then became Superintendent of Schools for Rankin County, a post he held for many years.

SHAW, THOMAS S. 1803-1836*

Thomas Shaw came to Brandon from Virginia with his friends, Daniel and Wright Fore and Thomas Shelton. A surveyor by trade, he plotted the town of Brandon in 1830 and also the cemetery in 1831. His original plat book is in the Brandon City Hall vault. This plat map may be seen at the Brandon Library. Thomas also served as Brandon's first postmaster.

LOMBARD, EPHRAIM H. 1798-1868*

Ephraim was admitted to practice law in Maine in 1827. He brought his family, including his brother and parents to Brandon in the mid 1840s and lived at "The Terraces", which also served as the second stagecoach stop for Brandon. Historical evidence shows that he may have been one of the settlers who were running from legal issues in Maine or "restless". He and his brother practiced law in Brandon and Ephraim planted cotton and other crops on the large area of land surrounding "The Terraces". In 1855, he purchased a large body of prairie land in Illinois and after taking up his residence temporarily in the village, began its improvement. He brought with him from Mississippi a gray-haired and bent with age Negro, "Old Mose". Lombard boldly stated that he had brought him there as a slave; that by virtue of the Dred Scott decision, he had a constitutional right to take his slaves wherever he pleased, and that Old Mose was just as much his property in Illinois as in Mississippi. It soon became evident to some, that his bringing the Negro to Illinois was an experiment to test the law. Soon after, Old Mose was speedily removed and placed on the "Underground Railroad" to Canada. There was great commotion in Brandon over the stealing of Old Mose. Lombard and his friends denounced the act in terms bitter and profane and threatened vengeance upon the perpetrators. He returned to Mississippi where he related his experiences to the Representative in Congress from his district. There are more examples where Ephraim tested the legal system. General Sherman stayed at his home while marching from Meridian to Vicksburg. Soon after Ephraim died, his wife who was not a Southerner and had no interest in helping the South rebuild, sold the property and moved with her children to Texas.

SHELTON, THOMAS, JR. 1742-1846*

Thomas Shelton came to Rankin County from Pittsylvania County, Virginia, with his wife, Phoebe Hatcher Maxey Shelton. Thomas, as well as his father, Thomas, Sr., were participants in the American Revolution. Their daughter, Virginia Shelton married Major Robert Maxey in 1838.

FRANTZ, A.J.*

Perhaps the most famous editor of a Rankin County newspaper was Colonel A.J. Frantz. He is remembered for his courage and determination during the Civil War, when he is said to have fled to the woods with his type and press and there continued to publish his paper while Sherman occupied the town of Brandon. For many years "The Brandon Republican" was one of the most widely read newspapers in the state. After the war, the name was changed to "The Brandon News." Although Frantz's fiery temper led to his being challenged to a duel, he had the respect and admiration of his peers. His wife, Virginia Johnson Frantz, was called the "gifted poetess of Brandon".

JOHNSON, FRANK A. 1831-1896*

Alfred and Martha Johnson came to Rankin County from Virginia in 1830, settling on land between Brandon and Fannin. Their first daughter, "Frank" was born in 1831. Shortly thereafter, they moved to Brandon where two more daughters were born, Virginia and Mary. All three girls became school teachers just like their mother. Mary married A.J. Franz, Editor of the Brandon Republican. Miss Frank taught at the Brandon Male and Female Academy established in 1836, and later Brandon Female College in 1867. Miss Frank is mentioned in several books as the most prominent teacher in Brandon's history. Many of Miss Frank's students became Mississippi's distinguished leaders. The building where she taught for so many years was named "Frank Johnson Hall", a memorial to this noble woman and great educator. In 1916, Margaret Buchanan led the drive to collect funds to erect and dedicate a monument to her memory. Johnson Hall was razed to build the current middle school gym but its location is marked by a historical marker.

KERSH, REV. W.W. 1820-1901*

The Kersh family came to Mississippi from North Carolina. They traveled with the Rhodes and other families and settled at Shiloh. Rev. W.W.'s parents settled in the Cato area and were some of the earliest settlers in Rankin County. He was a traveling Baptist minister, preaching every third Sunday at Brandon Baptist Church. He held several county offices and was also the chaplain for the Masonic Lodge, serving as the Ceremony's Chaplain when the Confederate Soldier statue was dedicated in 1907

**COLLIER, JOHN WALTER, JR. 1825-1902***

John Walter and his wife, Ann Graham came to Rankin County in the 1830s from Orangeburg County, South Carolina and had five daughters and one son. He was a large landowner in the Pelahatchie area. He and his son, Walter bought and sold land, timber, cotton and livestock. There are several Collier families still living in the Brandon area.

MAXEY, MAJOR ROBERT 3/25/1815-1874***HARRIET VIRGINIA SHELTON MAXEY 1821-1872**

Robert Maxey, born in 1815 in Virginia, came to Brandon around 1836. Family records indicate that he held the rank of Major in the military, though little is known as to which conflict he was in. He was a merchant and plantation owner until his death in 1874. On May 17, 1838, he married Harriet Virginia Shelton, daughter of Thomas Shelton, Jr. and his third wife, Phoebe. To Robert and Harriet were born eleven children and they also raised Robert's younger brother, William P. Five members of their family served in the Confederate army. During Sherman's occupation of Brandon in 1864, he visited Major Maxey at his home located on the southeast corner of College and Sunset Streets. Sherman said to Harriet, "Mrs. Maxey, I understand that you have five boys in the Confederate army." "Yes, and I wish I had five hundred," she responded as she left the porch, slamming the door behind her.

ATKINS, JOHN COLE 1853-1931*

John Cole Atkins was the son of Henry Walthall and Irana Cole Atkins. He became one of the county's most prominent citizens, serving one term as sheriff of Rankin County and sixteen years as County Tax Assessor. He married Mary Eleanor Fox, daughter of Malachi Fox. On February 27, 1912 John Cole Atkins bought land at what is now known as Value. In preparation of opening a post office, the Post Office Department sent Mr. Atkins a list of several possible names. Mary chose the one she liked best, Value. Mr. Atkins became the first Post Master of the Value Post Office. Mail was put directly on the trains at the nearby depot. The Atkins' daughter, Linda also worked in the store. When Mr. Atkins died in 1931 he left the store and the home behind it to Linda. She continued to operate the store and was named the new Postmistress. On June 6, 1935 she married James Whitfield McRae. Around 1939 they built a new larger store building directly in front of the old one naming it the McRae Mercantile. Mr. Jim and Miss Linda continued to operate the store and the Value Post Office was moved to the new building. After the death of his parents, the McRae's son, Duncan closed the store and offered the old Atkins store building to the new Rankin County Historical Society for a museum.

BURNS, WALLACE COLE*

Wallace's grandfather was Henry Cole, who served as Sheriff and Mayor of Brandon. His parents were Robert and Lilly Cole Burns. Wallace was raised in Brandon, attended Mississippi College, and fought in WWI. He served in Europe and was amazed at the technology of the airships and biplanes. At the end of WWI, he returned to Brandon to his wife and son. Having read where the US was researching and testing dirigibles for a newly formed US Air Force, he traveled to Langley Field and joined the team working on the "Roma" airship. This airship was purchased in 1920 by the US Army from Italy for \$250,000. Its first official run was on February 21, 1922. It caught fire and he and all of his team members died over Norfolk, Virginia. Soon after the tragedy, the United States abandoned further development of the airship.



FORE, WRIGHT 11/22/1793-5/16/1871*

Born in Rutherford County, North Carolina, Wright Fore served in the War of 1812. He was in Dyer's Regiment, General Coffee's Command. He was elected sheriff of Rankin County in 1855 and served several terms. He also served as County Treasurer and as a member of the Board of Police. Wright married his first wife, Mary Falls in Tennessee. After her death he married Ina Harriett Wofford, sister of Mary Wofford, (Mrs. Daniel Fore), Wright's brother. Wright built the first stage coach stop and later sold it to his friend D.W. Wilkinson.

BUSICK, HENRY ANDERSON 1837-1912*

Henry Anderson Busick was born in North Carolina and relocated to Mississippi in the 1860's, settling in Brandon in 1874. He married Miss Annie B. Glass, niece of Edmond Richardson, known as "the Cotton King of the South". They raised nine children. Henry operated a store in partnership with his brother, D.W. Busick. Henry was instrumental in organizing the Rankin County Bank and he donated land to the Methodist Church and to the Brandon Cemetery. Mr. Busick owned a plantation known as "Holly Grove" located 2 ½ miles south of Brandon. After the discovery of mineral wells on this property, Mr. Busick built a hotel, known as Busick's Mineral Wells and Hotel in 1905. The property included a golf course, a large hotel, guest houses and croquet courts. The hotel later burned and his home was rebuilt on this site. The Busick family continued to operate a family store in the city of Brandon through 2015.

THE WEILLE FAMILY***WEILLE, CHARLES 1820-1870****WEILLE, ELMIRA SHERMAN 12/10/1837-10/2/1909****WEILLE, LEE 5/30/1859-8/10/1911**

The "Louisiana Cottage" style home of Robert and Rosemary Morrow sits just to the north of the cemetery. This home was built in the summer of 1869 as a summer home for Mr. and Mrs. Charles Weille, an insurance man from Vicksburg, Mississippi. Mr. Weille was originally from Austria. He and his wife, Elmira Sherman Land married September 14, 1857 in Rankin county and had six children. Their Brandon home, now known as "The Cedars" was the first home in Brandon to have electric lights. The home also has the distinction of having the first hardwood floors in Brandon. In the 1860s, guests would come in on the train and would stay for a couple of weeks at a time in one of the two guest houses on the property. Many of these were men from the North brought in to hunt and be entertained at all-night parties and dances.

It is believed that the following prominent men are interred in the Cemetery.

However, headstones could not be located.

COLE, HENRY SIMS 10/7/1834-1/28/1904

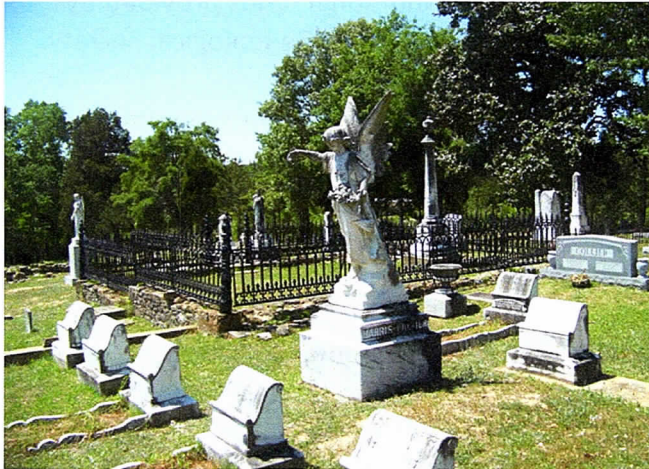
Henry Sims Cole served as 2nd Sergeant, Co. A, 6th MS Inf. Rgt., CSA. He lost one of his legs in the Battle of Shiloh. He was a school teacher, lawyer, probate clerk, justice of the peace, and sheriff of Rankin County from 1880 to 1896. He was also Mayor of Brandon. His historic home, known as the Bennett-Cole House, located on Highway 80 across from Ramey's Grocery Store was nominated to the National Historic Register of Historic Places but in the late 1990s was demolished and pieces moved to Crossroads prior to achieving this designation.

HARRIS, THOMAS D., CAPT. 1833-1902

Capt. Harris was born in Maury County, Tennessee in 1833, son of Richard and Mary Davis Harris. Leaving home in 1852 to seek his fortune in Mississippi, he was elected to the position of City Marshall and later appointed Deputy Sheriff. He married Miss Kate Watts of Covington County Mississippi, daughter of John Watts, Mississippi State Senator. Harris later purchased a livery barn and opened a retail grocery store in Brandon. In August of 1861, he joined Company B, 6th Regiment as a Second Lieutenant, and after the battle of Shiloh was appointed Commissary Captain of Calvary. After leaving the army in 1863, he was elected Sheriff of Rankin County and served in this position for many years. Harris was a Royal Arch Mason and also belonged to the Knights of Honor.

BUCHANAN, JAMES LACY 4/18/1848-6/4/1942

Born in Sumter County, Alabama, James Lacy, with his parents, John Oswald Buchanan and Celestine Lacy Buchanan, moved to Rankin County in 1853. James Lacy was only five years old when he learned to ride horseback and at the age of nine, he rode horseback all the way back to Alabama – a distance of one hundred miles. Joining the Confederate Army when he was sixteen, Buchanan fought under General Robert Lowry. He was assigned to Company I, Sixth Mississippi Regiment, captained by E.W. Smith, a Brandon druggist. In 1903, he was elected Sheriff of Rankin County. At a ceremony sponsored by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, an oak tree was planted as a monument to Uncle Jim. The tree was placed at a corner of the Confederate; Monument. After serving his term as Sheriff, James Lacy became Rankin County's first farm demonstration agent. He was instrumental in getting farmers to switch from the one-mule plow to two mule implements.



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We hope you enjoy this Historical Walking Tour